

## Chairman Peterson Questions the Ethics of Cronin's Behavior

**Boise** -- Barry Peterson, Chairman of the Idaho Republican Party, today condemned the ethical lapses of State Representative and Minority Caucus Chair Brian Cronin and called on him to resign immediately from the Idaho Legislature. Peterson's condemnation stems from the fact that Cronin is accepting payment for consulting and lobbying activities associated with the upcoming referendum while remaining an elected official and serving in a leadership position for his party. "Representative Cronin grabbed headlines by pointing fingers at his colleagues and other public servants who he charged with profiting from their state service," said Peterson. In fact, during the 2012 Legislative session, Representative Cronin sponsored legislation to create "...a 1 year cooling off period before an executive official or legislator could register as a lobbyist after his or her departure from public service" (Senate Bill 1235 SOP). Chairman Barry Peterson said, "I haven't seen a bigger flip-flop since John Kerry ran for President. I can only conclude that in relation to ethics laws, Cronin was for them before he was against them."

"There can be little doubt that Cronin's value in the private sector is based in large part on his position as a State Legislator and that value is enhanced by the fact that he is still serving as a State Legislator. If a Republican were doing this, Cronin would be leading the charge against it and calling for new laws to make sure it never happened again."

This is not Cronin's first brush with a legislative conflict of interest. The Idaho Statesman questioned his ethical judgment after he was awarded a \$90,000 public relations contract with the City of Boise and his former boss Mayor Dave Bieter. (*Idaho Statesman, Cynthia Sewell 2009*)

"I think the people of Idaho need to ask what Cronin is hiding. The Legislative session is over, there is no likelihood of a special session, and Cronin's official duties are quickly coming to an end. So why is he so insistent on hanging onto his legislative seat and taxpayer funded benefits, while at the same time collecting a fat paycheck for impacting public policy? Is it the health insurance benefits? Is it his PERSI benefits? Has he been collecting any per diem? Is he burdening the taxpayers in order to relieve his business of the cost of providing those same benefits? I think the people of Idaho have a right to know the answer to these questions and many, many, more. Whatever the answers, however, Representative Cronin needs to resign his seat immediately or quit his job as a public policy consultant."

As the chair of the Ada County Democrat Party in 2006, Cronin lambasted Republicans with an editorial titled, "Maybe Democrats' values are more in line with your own." I guess that can only be true if his constituents values are in line with his paying clients.